

**CLAIMS**

1. An augmented video surveillance system in which a surveillance video is augmented by insertion, into live video images seen by an operator, of synthetic or realistic objects and/or by visual enhancement of predetermined events taking place in the live video image seen by the operator, such insertion requiring specific action by the operator, and monitoring the action taken by the operator in response to such insertion.
2. An augmented video surveillance system according to claim 1 comprising a programmable event controller for controlling the augmented video image seen by the operator.
3. An augmented video surveillance system according to claim 2 comprising a rules-based event generation module for initiating the generation of an augmented image.
4. An augmented video surveillance system according to any one of claims 1 to 3 comprising a synthetic object generator for generating the synthetic object or event for insertion into the live video image seen by the operator.
5. An augmented video surveillance system according to claim 4 wherein the synthetic object is a fanciful shape or a still picture of a person.
6. An augmented video surveillance system according to claim 5 wherein the fanciful shape is a star, a square or a circle.
7. An augmented video surveillance system according to claim 5 wherein the still picture of a person shows such person displaying normal, unsuspecting behaviour or shows such person displaying suspicious behaviour.

8. An augmented video surveillance system according to any one of claims 1 to 3 comprising real object retrieval whereby the realistic objects or events which are inserted into the augmented video image comprises animated sequences extracted from previously recorded images of the scene under surveillance.
9. An augmented video surveillance system according to claim 8 wherein the realistic event comprises video footage showing an act of theft.
10. An augmented video surveillance system according to any one of the preceding claims comprising an interface generator allowing interaction with the operator.
11. An augmented video surveillance system according to claim 10 wherein the event controller is programmed to give feedback to the operator via the interface generator.